

(b) and (c). Reserve Bank of India has been asked to look into the matter and take appropriate action as considered necessary.

FERA violation by V.G. Panneerdas & Company

10933. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any complaints have been received about violation of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) by M/s. V.G. Panneerdas and Company and their associate companies who have collected money from the Non-resident Indians abroad for 'Own-Your House' schemes in Madras and elsewhere in Tamil Nadu ;

(b) whether any control is exercised by the Reserve Bank of India over the foreign exchange deposits of these companies and if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the details of the action taken against complaints from Non-resident Indians about non-fulfilment of contractual obligations by these companies in regard to house and flats ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) :

(a) to (c). R B I, Madras had received a complaint from one Shri P Rajendran Nair, a non-resident Indian, for refund of initial deposit made by him for purchase of a flat from M/s. V.G.P. Housing (P) Ltd, which he subsequently decided to withdraw for personal reasons. In terms of the existing Exchange Control Regulations, non-resident Indians can acquire residential property out of their inward remittance, without approval of R.B.I. The matter relating to selling immovable properties by these companies to non-resident Indians by accepting advance payment from them are being looked into by R.B I.

[Translation]

FERA violation by issue of bogus passports

10934. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of violation of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) by way of issuing bogus passports on large scale are now coming to light ;

(b) if so, the number of such cases which have come to light since January, 1987 to date in which people have been found guilty in connection with bogus passports and for violating the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act ; and

(c) the details of the action taken by Government in this regard and the number of persons against whom cases are pending with Government and CBI who are conducting inquiry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). The Madras Special Crime Branch of the Central Bureau of Investigations has taken up investigations of 7 cases (4 in 1987 and 3 in 1988) in which the accused had used the forged/fictitious passports for obtaining foreign exchange. The Directorate of Enforcement (FERA) have also detected 2 cases where 28 tempered passports had been used for release of Foreign Exchange. Investigations in all these cases are in progress. Appropriate action under the law will be taken on completion of investigations.

Editorial staff for Bhagirath (Hindi)

10935. DR. G. S. RAJHANS : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) when the Bhagirath (Hindi) was brought out first and what were its objectives ;

(b) the names of the editorial staff who brought out the first issue of the Bhagirath ;

(c) whether it is a fact that its special issues were also brought out and if so, the names of persons who had edited and compiled this issue ;

(d) whether it is a fact that there is an undue delay in bringing out the journal ;